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## Daily Environment Report

November 16, 2017 - Number 220

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### Leading the News

#### *Chemical Safety Board*

##### **Chemical Plants Face New Reality in Natural Disaster Preparation**

As tropical storms in the Gulf Coast increase in frequency and intensity, it's imperative that facilities reassess operation plans and worst-case scenario assumptions, Chemical Safety Board Chairwoman Vanessa Sutherland said Nov. 15.

#### *Chemicals*

##### **European Union Wants to Change the Ink in Your Tattoo**

Tattooing has been around for thousands of years, but its popularity is bigger than ever. Once considered an act of rebellion against cultural norms, today nearly one in three Americans and nearly one in six Europeans have a tattoo.

#### *Emissions Trading*

##### **Eastern States' Carbon-Trading Program Set to Expand**

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is poised to expand to two large Eastern states as soon as next year, marking the biggest expansion of the cap-and-trade program since it was created almost a decade ago.

#### *International Climate*

##### **Modest Progress Seen in Bonn Toward Global Emissions Trading**

Negotiators at U.N. climate talks in Bonn are on the verge of scoring a modest victory toward

international trading of emissions credits, which may be crucial if the world is to take the kind of actions needed to halt global temperatures' rapid rise.

#### *Water Pollution*

##### **EPA's Timeline to Rewrite Water Rule May Be Tough to Meet**

The Trump administration's "aggressive timeline" to rewrite a regulation clarifying the geographic reach of the Clean Water Act by the end of 2018 will be hard to meet, according to an agency official.

## **News**

#### *Agriculture*

##### **Bayer-Monsanto Merger at Odds With Trump Agenda: Farm Groups**

The Trump administration should block the proposed Monsanto-Bayer merger because it is contrary to the president's "Buy American, America First" strategy, the top official of a leading ranchers organization said.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **As India Endures Blanket of Smog, China's Battle Offers Lessons**

As New Delhi suffers through a surge in the most harmful type of smog—a toxic stew that makes India's capital one of the most polluted in the world—Beijing offers lessons in how another troubled city made progress clearing the air.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **Four Air Pollution Bills Move Through House Panel**

A House environment panel voted Nov. 15 to move forward four bills aimed at easing clean air regulations for coal refuse plants, brick kilns, wood heaters, and race cars.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **Polish Government Behind in Addressing Smog, Vows New Action**

Polish government officials say improving air quality is a priority and have earmarked \$2.2 billion in funding by 2020 to ease the nation's smog situation, one of the worst in Europe.

#### *Air Pollution*

##### **State Deadlines Loom But No Word From EPA on Ozone Decisions**

States' upcoming deadline to address their ozone pollution that crosses state lines by 2018 looms, even though the EPA has yet to announce which areas exceed federal standards for the pollutant.

#### *Chemicals*

##### **Monsanto Sues California Over Forced Herbicide Warning**

Monsanto Co. and groups of farmers sued California officials to stop the state from forcing a cancer warning on the company's herbicide glyphosate.

#### *Climate Change*

##### **A Tiny Island Prepares the World for a Climate Refugee Crisis**

As rising sea levels threaten to leave millions homeless, a South Pacific island paradise is upstaging wealthier nations in forging a response to the unfolding crisis.

#### *Climate Policy*

##### **California's Housing Policy Is Holding Back Its Climate Policy**

The high cost of housing in California isn't just hurting the state's economy, fueling homelessness, and exacerbating economic inequality. It's imperiling its reputation as a global leader in emissions reductions, too.

#### *Dumping*

##### **Cheese and Bourbon Face Risk of Backlash from U.S. Solar Tariff**

If President Donald Trump imposes tariffs on solar panels, Wisconsin cheese and Kentucky whiskey may pay the price.

#### *Energy*

##### **Petrobras Chief Rushing to Deliver as Election Season Nears**

The clock is ticking for Petrobras' Pedro Parente.

#### *Energy*

##### **Puerto Rico Hit by New Blackout Just as Governor Touts Recovery**

A new power outage hit Puerto Rico on Nov. 15, immobilizing parts of the San Juan area just hours after the governor heralded a major accomplishment on the path to recovery.

#### *Energy*

##### **Statoil Plans to Step Up Exploration After Driving Down Costs**

Statoil ASA plans to step up drilling in Norway for a second consecutive year, according to company officials.

#### *Fossil Fuels*

##### **Trump Isn't Helping Us, Says Advocate of 'Clean' Fossil Fuel Use**

U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to promote the use of "clean coal" may actually be undermining the industry he's seeking to save.

#### *International Climate*

##### **Merkel Defends Coal Use as Macron Calls for Carbon Price Floor**

French President Emmanuel Macron called for a minimum price on carbon pollution while German Chancellor Angela Merkel defended her country's use of coal as they opened the final stage of two weeks of talks on global warming organized by the United Nations.

#### *International Climate*

##### **Trudeau Sees 'Challenge' in Balancing Fossil Fuels, Climate**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sees Canada's vast carbon resources as an environmental "challenge" for his country—the world's No. 4 oil exporter—but also said pitting economic prosperity against the environment is a false choice.

#### *Mine Safety*

##### **Trump's Mine Safety Pick Confirmed by Senate**

David Zatezalo, a longtime coal executive and the Trump administration's pick to lead federal mine safety, won Senate confirmation Nov. 15.

#### *Oil & Gas*

##### **Arctic Refuge Drilling Measure Approved by Senate Committee**

Alaskan lawmakers are one step closer to opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, a goal of the state's Republicans for decades. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved a measure Nov. 15 that would allow drilling in the 1.5 million acre coastal plain along Alaska's northeast coast. The measure would be added as an amendment to the Republican tax package.

#### *Oil & Gas*

##### **Mexico's Power Needs Make It Vulnerable to U.S. Gas Flows**

Mexico's growing demand for power could be hurt by any disruption of natural gas from the U.S., on which it is increasingly relying, presenters said at an energy conference in Mexico City on Nov. 14.

#### *Renewable Energy*

##### **Chinese Solar Manufacturer Longi Mulls U.S. Factory as Tariffs Loom**

Longi Green Energy Technology Co., a Chinese solar manufacturer, is considering opening a U.S. factory, a decision that may hinge upon the looming threat of import tariffs.

#### *Toxic Substances*

##### **California's Famed Cancer Warnings Imperiled by Lobbyist Push**

Corporate lobbyists, aiming to seize on the Trump administration's deregulation drive, are pushing to override state laws on ingredient-disclosure rules and warning labels, including landmark California legislation on potential cancer risks.

#### *Water Infrastructure*

##### **No Fines for Water Utilities Taking Over Failed Systems: EPA**

Water utilities that take over failing treatment plants to upgrade or maintain infrastructure critical to providing safe water may see enforcement actions and penalties waived by the federal government, the EPA's top water official said Nov. 15.

#### *Water Pollution*

##### **Pilgrim's Pride to Pay \$1.4 Million for Chicken Plant Pollution**

Chicken producer Pilgrim's Pride agreed to pay more than \$1 million over water pollution violations at one of its processing plants in central Florida.

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